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COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

TOPIC

Military Information from Dessau-Rosslau

EVALUATION

see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

24 November to 29 December 1951

DATE OBTAINED

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PREPARED

21 January 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. During the period from 18 to 29 December 1951, the barracks installation in Dessau-Rosslau (M 52/E 17) quartered about 3,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank and the rest with artillery insignia. Very intensive training activity involving several units of up to 100 men was noticed every day. The troops were engaged in drill, field training, and training with machine guns and light mortars. Two T-34/85 tanks were seen in the terrain, and apparently were operated by student drivers. Trucks

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each carrying from 20 to 25 soldiers, were identified going to, and coming from town on 24 December. Two of the trucks towed 76-mm artillery pieces.

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2. Up to mid-December, a large number of new tank and engineer officers were noticed at the post of Dessau-Rosslau. Rail shipments of from 35 to 50 soldiers were seen departing toward, and arriving from the direction of, Lagdeburg during the period from late November to about 16 December. A new post komendatura was set up in Rosslau in late November. Rosslau had been under the jurisdiction of the komendatura in Zerbst till then.

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3. Low wooden barracks buildings and vehicle sheds were being improved in the hutment of Gross Kuehnau south of the Dessau-Gross Kuehnau road. Tanks, SP guns, reconnaissance cars and AT guns were seen in some of the sheds.

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4. On 15 December, the hutment of Gross Kuehnau was occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. About 40 low wooden barracks buildings and one large shed were noticed in the hutment area. Five tanks were seen at the entrance of the hutment. At a municipal office in Dessau, source learned that Lieutenant Colonel Bolkov (fnu) was commandant of Camp Gross Kuehnau.

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5. In late November, Camp Gross Kuehnau quartered about 4,000 troops who wore red-

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No Change in Class. ☐

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bordered black epaulets. Numerous trucks, and several garages under construction were noticed in the billeting area.

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6. On 20 December, Camp Gross Kuehnau on the south side of the Dessau-Gross Kuehnau road, was occupied by an undetermined number of troops who included 120 to 150 that wore black-bordered black epaulets and were seen in the billeting area but engaged in no particular training activity. A sentry at the guardhouse wore black-bordered black epaulets and carried a rifle.

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7. On 24 November, 12 JS-3 tanks, 6 AT guns and 70 trucks were noticed in the billeting area of the barracks installation at Rossau. A T-34 tank was engaged in aiming practice at the target ranges near the barracks installation.

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8. About 50 soldiers were seen drilling with six 120-mm mortars in the yard of the barracks installation at Rossau on 20 December. \*

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Comment. [redacted] the total strength estimate of 7,000 troops indicate that the majority of the components of the 7th Gds Tank Div have been at Dessau-Rossau since December 1951. The report supports previous assumptions regarding the movement of divisional components into Camp Gross Kuehnau which was enlarged and improved in the summer of 1951. The tanks and SP guns observed and the identification of Lieutenant Colonel Bolkov (fnu), known as commanding officer of the 79th Gds Div Tank SP Regt, indicate that the regiment was assigned to Camp Gross Kuehnau from the Pioneer Schule, Rossau. Since further billeting space became available in the Pioneer Schule, Rossau, following the transfer of the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GOFG to Magdeburg, it is possible that components of the 7th Gds Tank Div, which were withdrawn from Koethen airfield to furnish quarters for air force units, may have been transferred to Dessau-Rossau. The heavy infantry weapons observed in the Pioneer Schule in addition to the tanks probably belong to the 23d Gds Itz Rifle Regt and/or the 467th (?) Mort Regt and support the assumption that the two regiments have been transferred from Koethen to Rossau.

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